

Remarks

After careful consideration of the outstanding Final Office Action, this application has been amended accordingly, and favorable reconsideration on the merits thereof is at this time respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 21, 24, 71 through 77 and 79 through 81 have been cancelled. The latter claims correspond to claims rejected by the Examiner or claims withdrawn from consideration pursuant to the earlier provisional election of the species of Figures 1 through 4.

In the Office Action at page 6, paragraph 8, the Examiner indicated that claims 25 through 27 and 85 through 87 were directed to "allowable subject matter." Each of claims 25 through 27 has been placed in independent form by including therein the subject matter of now cancelled independent claim 21 and intervening claim 24. Accordingly, 25, 26 and 27, each in independent form, is directed to allowable subject matter, and the formal allowance thereof would be most appreciated.

Claims which previously depended from now cancelled claim 21 have been changed to depend from allowable claim 25. Such claims include claims 22, 23, 28, 29, 78, etc. Obviously, the allowance of each claim depending from allowable claim 25 is respectfully requested.

Claim 85 has also been placed into independent form and, thus, is "allowable," along with claims 86 and 87 depending directly therefrom.

All of the claims of record have been indicated by the Examiner to be "allowable," except for previous dependent claim 83 which has been rewritten in independent form. The Examiner rejected claim 83 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) "as being anticipated by Buzan (US Patent No.: 3,197,902)." At page 4 of the

Office Action, lines 4 and 5 from the bottom, the Examiner made mention of a removable housing part 16 and the securing means 36 which allegedly provide "axially accessing the light source (Figure 1, column 3, lines 64-74)."

Original dependent claim 83 initially included the subject matter of independent claim 21 reciting "said housing defining a slot opening into said chamber." The only slot entering into a chamber in the Buzan structure is the unnumbered slot of the body 29 outwardly of which projects lamp 28. At column 3, the Examiner will find the sentence reading: "As viewed in FIG. 4 each lamp 28 has a portion of its body exposed for the emission of light rays." Therefore, the limitation in claim 21 of "said housing defining a slot opening into said chamber" is met by the Buzan patent.

The last limitation of claim 21 recited: "means for securing and unsecuring said two housing parts relative to each other to access said chamber." Clearly, the snap fastening generally at 36; 38, 39 provides such securing means.

This brings before the Examiner for consideration this last limitation of claim 83 reciting: "means for axially accessing said light source." As is apparent from Figure 3, the body 29 which supports the lamp 28 is closed at axially opposite ends by the peripheral flange 13 forming "four sides defining an open front" of the sign 10 (column 2, lines 29-36). One need but visualize the lamp 28 in the body 29 of Figure 3, and it is readily apparent that the lamp 28 cannot be axially accessed in any manner. The lamp 28 may be radially accessed, as is evident from Figure 2, but the patent lacks any disclosure of "means for axially accessing said light source," including the portion of the specification earlier referred to by the Examiner, namely, column 3, lines 64-74 and Figure 1. Figure 1 is a front elevational view of the side and discloses

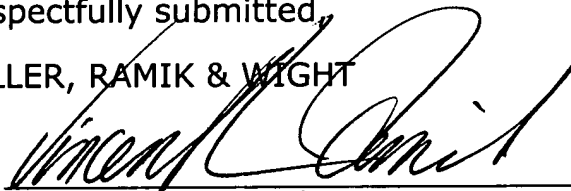
nothing of any type of light source and the specific lines in column 3 are directed to the assembly/disassembly of the sign face 15, the liner 14, etc. which are disposed within the frame 11. The Buzan patent is absolutely lacking in any teaching comparable to the subject matter of independent claim 83. Accordingly, the formal allowance of claim 83 is believed proper and would be most appreciated.

In view of the foregoing, the formal allowance of this application, followed by the passage thereof to issue at an early date is herewith respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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